

Biosecurity does not just protect you from bioterrorism

Before starting down the road less traveled, you need to understand what biosecurity is, and what it is not. Biosecurity is not the same as bioterrorism.

Biosecurity is essential for the overall success of your farm. Biosecurity is not just about preventing bioterrorism or agroterrorism. However, effective biosecurity can increase the efficiency of your operation **and** help safeguard your farm from threats of bioterrorism and/or agroterrorism. Remember, terrorism is more about disrupting the economy and terrorizing the wider population than about attacking a single farm.

Biosecurity means preventing the accidental or intentional introduction of disease to a herd, flock, or premises, and preventing the spread of disease among animals and plants.

Bioterrorism means the intentional introduction of disease-causing agents or organisms to an animal, plant or human population, thus threatening food and water resources as well as human, animal and plant life.

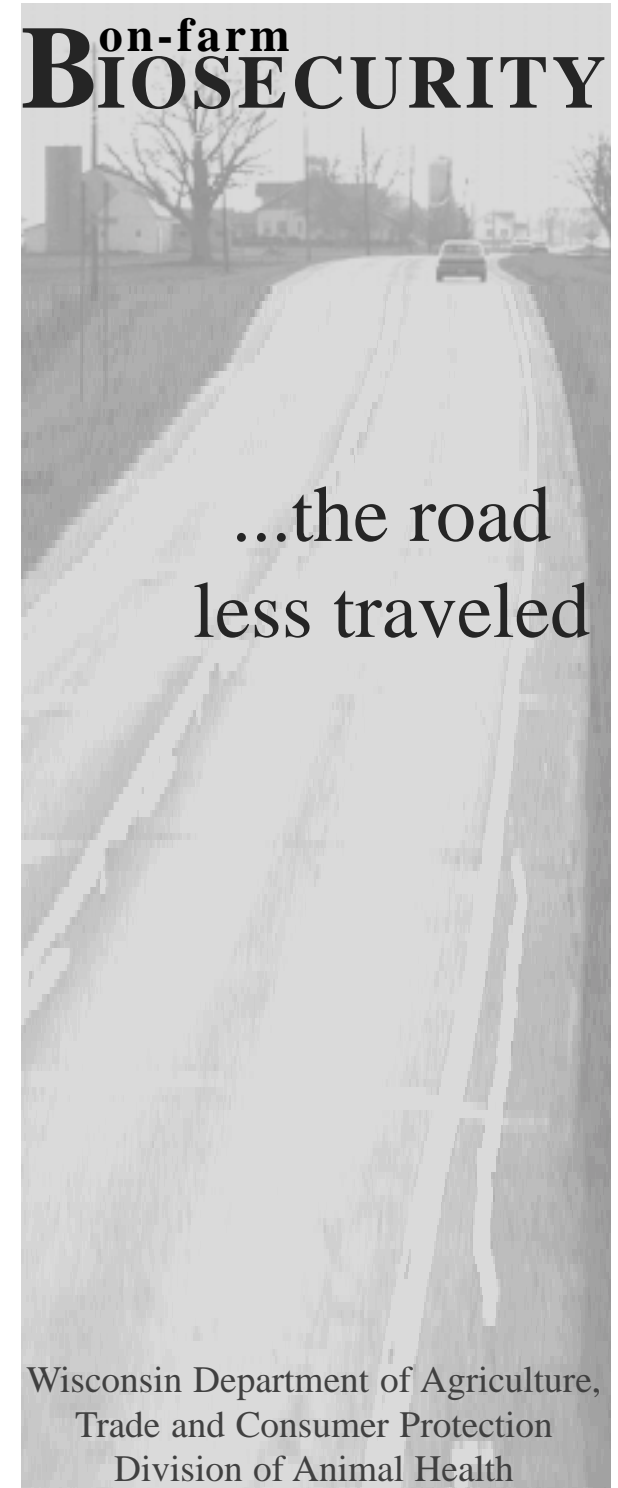
Agroterrorism means the intentional use of biological and/or chemical agents as weapons against the agricultural industry and/or the food supply, or using agricultural chemicals against any segment of the population. Agroterrorism also may involve the theft of agricultural chemicals for illegal use and/or acts of destruction by an activist group targeting agriculture.

“Few farmers have truly traveled the road to on-farm biosecurity. Traveling that road means sincerely looking at every function on the farm operation. Traveling that road means making a commitment to reduce animal and plant-health risks, and to safeguard human health and food safety.”

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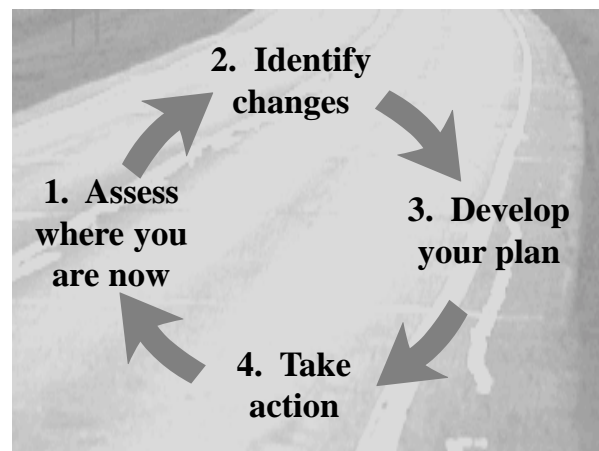


Biosecurity begins by taking the road less traveled.

Taking the road less traveled gives you a fresh look at the biosecurity on your farming operation. The road less traveled may have more twists and turns than the road you're used to taking, but reaching the destination will make your operation even better.

How you achieve biosecurity depends on how you operate now, and what you are willing to change to improve the performance of your farm operation. The following four-step process serves as a roadmap to help you start down the road less traveled to reach true biosecurity. Each time you start down the road less traveled, you may see new scenery and destinations.

The roadmap will assist you in gathering needed information and in making those changes that you identify as essential and workable:



1. Assess

Looking carefully at your operation's key areas can help you determine what you already have in place for biosecurity and where you need to make changes. Key areas include your *facility*, your *sanitation and husbandry* practices and your *management* practices. The following lists can help you focus on key areas, but you may think of more things that affect animal health.

Facility

- ♦ Site selection
- ♦ Design
- ♦ Structure
- ♦ Security
- ♦ Animal housing
- ♦ Storage
- ♦ Access and egress
- ♦ Designated parking
- ♦ Signage
- ♦ Ventilation/air movement
- ♦ Isolation (young, old, new, sick animals)
- ♦ Treatment
- ♦ Segregation (dedicated parts of facility)
- ♦ Visitor sign-in

Sanitation and husbandry

- ♦ Cleaning and disinfecting (facility, vehicles, methods, chemicals, frequency)
- ♦ Feed (source, delivery, storage, waste)
- ♦ Water (source, delivery, cleaning, flushing lines)
- ♦ Bedding (type, source, cleaning, waste)
- ♦ Production methods
- ♦ Sampling
- ♦ Waste handling
- ♦ Personnel (sanitary practices)

Management practices

- ♦ Work-flow management
- ♦ Personnel (work history, terms of employment, needs, training, schedules, back-up)
- ♦ Review/revise policies on purchases
- ♦ Replacement of production animals (sources)
- ♦ Separation of animals (species, age, sex)
- ♦ Equipment (preventive maintenance, replacement schedules, use restrictions)
- ♦ Management team (owner, family, manager, veterinarian, nutritionist, crop specialist, agricultural engineer, economist, banker, etc.)

2. Identify changes

- ♦ Decide what you can do with low- or no-cost investment inputs and/or management changes
- ♦ Provide needed training
- ♦ Decide what changes require capital
- ♦ Decide on personnel needs/duty changes
- ♦ Have your team involved all the way

3. Develop your plan

- ♦ If you need capital, what are sources?
- ♦ Do cost/benefit analysis for capital costs
- ♦ Put your plan in **writing**
- ♦ Keep your team involved all the way
- ♦ Set a timetable to make changes and determine end date
- ♦ Set **realistic, measurable** goals and review progress regularly

4. Take action

- ♦ Make low-cost/high-benefit changes first
- ♦ Seek capital sources (grants, low-interest loans, cash, work with your banker)
- ♦ Revise your timetable, goals if needed (but know why you did so)
- ♦ Record positive or negative effects of changes
- ♦ Keep your team involved
- ♦ Follow your plan; don't cut corners
- ♦ **Do another assessment at the end date**
- ♦ Identify changes
- ♦ Develop a new plan or revise the old one